

topic, then lists specific guidelines for treatment.

The suggestions for treatment are listed chronologically and appear rather rigid and dogmatic, not unlike most guideline formats. The suggested frequency of laboratory investigation appears excessive. Indications for certain types of therapy could be debated and better explained — for example, the use of oxygen in all patients and the presence of complete heart block with wide QRS complexes requiring temporary cardiac pacing.

An apparent oversight is a description and explanation of physical examination in patients with acute myocardial infarction. The guidelines are oriented towards laboratory results and hemodynamic assessment, which may well be part of the contemporary management of these patients, but the novice should be directed more towards clinical-laboratory correlations.

It is unlikely that individuals with experience in coronary care would find this book helpful, but the novice may find the guidelines useful when considering management of acute myocardial infarction.

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Medical Ophthalmology. Edited by F. Clifford Rose. 574 pp. Illust. The C.V. Mosby Company, Saint Louis, 1976. \$31. ISBN 0-412-13700-3

Most books recently published on ophthalmology deal with subspecialties. Since the Duke-Elder publication of a textbook on ophthalmology comprising more than 20 volumes, books on general ophthalmology have been either extremely synoptic or poor imitations of the British classic. The difficulty is that to appeal to ophthalmologists general books must deal with such topics as strabismus and refraction, both of which are of no interest to most non-ophthalmologists.

This book has a different scope. It describes in depth only the diseases that general practitioners would likely see in their patients. The editor has skilfully compiled the work of recognized experts in ophthalmology and allied disciplines to bring the reader up to date on the current concepts of each subject. Retinal vascular diseases and diabetic retinopathy, for example, are detailed in several chapters written by Eva Kohner, an internist whose expertise in these subjects is recognized throughout the world.

Also noteworthy are the chapters in the section on neuro-ophthalmology written by MacDonald Critchley on visual agnosia and hysterical blindness,

and the section on cerebral vascular disease by John Marshall, a neurosurgeon. The text does not include discussions of strabismus, refraction or diseases of interest only to ophthalmologists.

This book is useful either as a textbook on ophthalmology for general information or as a reference source providing up-to-date information on many important issues. For ophthalmologists and those studying for specialty examinations the book is a compelling account of what is currently significant in ophthalmology as related to medical practice.

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Medicine's Metaphors: Messages and Menaces. Samuel Vaisrub. 124 pp. Medical Economics Company, Oradell, NJ, 1977. Price not stated.

To anyone who is a reader of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* the name of the author of this book will be familiar. Vaisrub is a frequent contributor of editorials, even the most learned and scientific of which are graced with a delicate sense of humour and whimsy. It is no surprise, therefore, that when he writes a book on one of his favourite subjects — words and their derivations — these gifts are much in evidence. The alliterative title of this little volume is characteristic.

From his earliest student days every physician has encountered examples from the wealth of metaphor that medicine uses to express not only its theoretic concepts but also its bald and factual details. In Vaisrub's book we have a wide-ranging survey of the various fields that have contributed to medical terminology — mythology, war, nature, religion, crime, and so on. The obverse is a section on the medical metaphors that have been made a part of our everyday speech, which includes a brief examination of Shakespeare's use of figures of speech relating to sickness, medicine and the human body.

The reader interested in language, etymology or literature will delight in this unusual work. It shows throughout much erudition and imaginative speculation and is no mere catalogue or compilation of terms. It can be read comfortably at one sitting but is ideal for repeated browsing, for tender leaves and shoots are here aplenty.

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Osteoarthritis of the Hip. Pathogenesis and Consequent Therapy. Renato

Bombelli. 136 pp. Illust. Springer-Verlag Berlin, Heidelberg; Springer-Verlag New York Inc., Secaucus, 1976. \$67.80. ISBN 0-387-07842-8

Professor Bombelli has performed more than 1000 femoral osteotomies for osteoarthritis of the hip and is concerned mainly with younger patients in whom an alternative to total hip replacement is desirable.

He has analysed carefully the forces acting on the femoral head during the various phases of walking. In a normal spherical, congruent joint the forces are concentrated at the centre of the femoral head and can be represented by a vertical thrust from the ground and a horizontal component pushing the hip into the acetabulum.

In an arthritic hip the slope of the acetabular roof inclines from the horizontal and the femoral head becomes flattened and incongruous. Forces are no longer concentrated at the centre of the head but meet at a centre of stress that moves according to the different positions of the joint. A pathologic force that tends to sublunate the hip outwards replaces the centralizing component. Osteophytes develop at specific sites according to the local stresses.

Bombelli's hypothesis is that with a valgus femoral osteotomy the pathologic process is reversed. The centre of reaction is now over the medial osteophytes, and a space or cushion effect is produced on the superior aspect of the joint, which restores the articular surface and relieves pain. Many illustrations and serial radiographs are provided that support his contention.

Since Bombelli has built this theme around a carefully measured valgus osteotomy, one is almost surprised that there is still a place for a varus femoral or even a pelvic osteotomy under different circumstances.

Many theories have been proposed to explain the beneficial results of osteotomy on the arthritic hip. This beautifully and profusely illustrated text makes a comprehensive attempt to explain the engineering and to relate the arthritic process to an entirely mechanical origin.

Unfortunately there are no direct experimental measurements to confirm Bombelli's theories and no statistical presentation of the clinical results. How often did total hip replacement have to be done subsequent to osteotomy?

This book makes fascinating reading for orthopedic surgeons, physiatrists and engineers interested in hip problems and provides a fund of information.

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